

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11, and 15 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Claims 2, 10, 12-14, and 16-17 have been cancelled.

In the section entitled "Claim rejections - 35 USC § 102" on pages 2-3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, and 15 have been rejected as being anticipated by Rana (US Pat. No. 3,809,385) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

The rejection has been noted and claims 1 and 9 have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found on page 4, lines 8-23 of the specification in connection with the drawings.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

said at least one feeder to be laterally attached to said transport chain frames in a working position. (Emphasis added.)

Claim 9 calls for, inter alia:

at least one of said feeders to be laterally attached to said transport chain frames. (Emphasis added.)

According to the invention of the instant application, the feeders (10) are side-attachable to the transport chain frames (16). In contrast, in Rana the feeders must be manipulated by an overhead crane (see Fig. 2 and column 4, lines 51-54).

Clearly, Rana does not show "said at least one feeder to be laterally attached to said transport chain frames in a working position," as recited in claim 1, and "at least one of said feeders to be laterally attached to said transport chain frames," as recited in claim 9 of the instant application.

Claims 1 and 9 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over Rana and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 9, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In the section entitled "Claim rejections - 35 USC § 103" on pages 3-4 of the above-mentioned Office action, claim 6 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Rana under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As discussed above, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the art. Since claim 6 is dependent on claim 1, it is believed to be patentable as well.

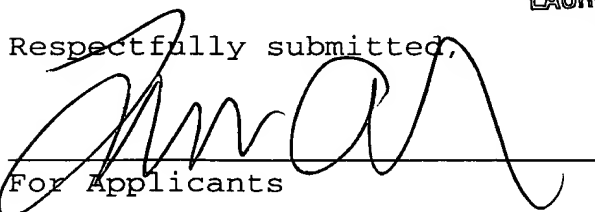
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-9, 11, and 15 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

LAURENCE A. GREENBERG
REG. NO. 29,308

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicants

YC

April 19, 2004

Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
Post Office Box 2480
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480
Tel: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101